

Chapter 390-19 WAC

ELECTRONIC FILING

NEW SECTION

WAC 390-19-010 Intent of electronic filing. (1) The public disclosure commission (PDC) was created and empowered by initiative of the people to provide timely and meaningful public access to information about the financing of political campaigns, lobbyist expenditures, and the financial affairs of public officials and candidates, and to insure compliance with contribution limits and other campaign finance restrictions.

(2) Full and prompt access to the political finance data filed by persons subject to the law is best realized through wide-spread use of electronic filing alternatives. The Washington state legislature has mandated that certain filers submit their PDC reports electronically. The commission encourages all persons required to report under the disclosure law to utilize the electronic filing alternatives provided by the PDC.

NEW SECTION

WAC 390-19-020 Electronic filing--Mandatory filing. (1) RCW 42.17.3691 mandates that persons satisfying the qualifying criteria in that section file all contribution and expenditure reports by electronic means.

(2) Persons filing by electronic means shall register with the PDC and receive a filer identification number and password. Filers must have a current C-1 Candidate Registration Statement or a C-1pc Committee Registration Statement with original signature on file with the PDC prior to receiving a filer identification number. Forms C-1 and C-1pc may not be filed electronically.

(3) A filer subject to RCW 42.17.3691 shall file all PDC C-3 and C-4 reports and all appropriate schedules electronically in compliance with subsection (5) of this section.

(4) Any filer required to file electronically, but who files on paper, is in violation of RCW 42.17.3691 and may be subject to enforcement action unless the filer is a candidate who has sought

and been granted an exception from electronic filing under WAC 390-19-050.

(5) A filer subject to electronic filing shall file reports using one of the following formats:

(a) The Washington electronic disclosure system (WEDS) provided free-of-charge by the PDC;

(b) Software that conforms to the political disclosure standard electronic reporting format provided by the PDC; or

(c) Any other electronic filing software compatible with PDSERF.

NEW SECTION

WAC 390-19-030 Electronic filing--Reporting threshold. (1) Beginning with the reporting periods that start on or after January 1, 2002, the "electronic reporting threshold" that requires electronic filing of all contribution and expenditure reports is met when a candidate or political committee has expended \$25,000 or more in the preceding calendar year or expects to expend \$25,000 or more in the current calendar year. The electronic reporting threshold is \$10,000 effective January 1, 2004.

(2) "Expects to expend" is defined as when any one of the following first occurs:

(a) A filer meets or exceeds the electronic reporting threshold;

(b) A filer's expenditures during the last election for the same office sought exceeded the electronic reporting threshold;

(c) A filer's expenditures exceed one-quarter of the electronic reporting threshold in the first calendar quarter of the current calendar year;

(d) A filer's expenditures exceed one-half of the electronic reporting threshold in the first half of the current calendar year; or

(e) A filer otherwise projects that the electronic reporting threshold will be met.

(3) The following expenditures or transactions are excluded from the electronic reporting threshold calculation:

(a) Expenditures made to pay outstanding debts carried forward from a previous election; and

(b) Surplus funds disposed of in accordance with RCW 42.17.095.

(4) Candidate committees or political committees supporting or opposing ballot propositions that meet, exceed or expect to meet or exceed the electronic reporting threshold shall report electronically for the duration of the campaign.

(5) Beginning with the reporting periods that start on or after January 1, 2002, a report that is filed with the commission electronically need not also be filed with the county auditor or